

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL SECURITY IN REPORT

25X1

COUNTRY CzechoslovakiaTOPIC PS Brigade in VolaryEVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED

25X1

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 31 December 1952

REFERENCES

25X1

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

25X1

1. Prior to 17 July 1952, PS Brigade in Volary (Wallern, N 49/Q 55), was subordinate to Unit in Prague. Its headquarters and units were quartered in five buildings on the western edge of Volary on the north side of the road to Kunzward (Kuschwarda, N 49/Q 35). A green fence surrounded the site. The brigade consisted of a guard detail of about 30 men, an emergency company of 60 equipped with 4 model 37 heavy machine guns and 12 trench mortars, a motor transport company, a supply unit and some battalions stationed in Kvilda (Aussergefild, N 50/Q 36), Kunzward and Mor. Plans (Oberplan, N 49/Q 63). The latter place was the garrison of the 19th and 20th Companies.
2. The PS Battalion in Kunzward consisted of a guard platoon of 6 non-commissioned officers and 35 men, a signal communication platoon of about 20, a motor transport platoon of 15, a supply platoon plus the 6th Company in Ceske Zleby (Boehm. Roehren, N 49/Q 44), the 7th Company in Svetle Hory (Lichtbucht, N 49/Q 35), the 8th Company in Horni Silnice (Oberlandstrassen, N 49/Q 34) and the 9th Company in Dolni Silnice (Unterlandstrassen, N 49/Q 34). The latter had a strength of 45 men. Since March 1952, Lieutenant Baloun (fnu) was battalion commander who took over from Lieutenant Malek (fnu). Lieutenant Kochrda (fnu) was political officer and Lieutenant Novotny (fnu) was DOZ-officer. In July 1952, the units received new Czech 9-mm submachine guns resembling the 48-type model. The new submachine guns bore the inscription "SCH" and were issued as type "A" with a fixed stock, and a type "B" with a folding stock. They were about 20 or 30-mm longer than the 48-type submachine guns and had a magazine for 32 cartridges.
3. The 8th Company had a strength of 2 NCOs and 45 men and was equipped with the new submachine gun, the Czech type-24 rifle, two type-26 light machine guns and one 37-type heavy machine gun. The company also had one "Tudor"-type Jeep, one horse-drawn vehicle and three dogs. Two hundred combat hand grenades were kept ready in the stockroom. In July 1952, soldiers of the 1929 to 1931 age-classes, half Czechs and half Slovaks, served with the company.
4. Basic training of recruits took place in Cheb (Eger, N 51/P 37) during the period from 9 March to 30 May 1952, during which 10 firing exercises with rifles, 3 with submachine guns and one with light machine guns were held. Hand grenade throwing was instructed twice. A noncommissioned officers' school was in Pobezovice (N 50/P 41). The school was headed by First Lieutenant Malek (fnu) who formerly commanded the battalion garrisoned in Kunzward. No information on assignments or other details was available.

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

CONFIDENTIAL/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

- 2 -

25X1

A basic training center was in Lenora (Eleonorenhain, N 49/Q 45). Recruits arrived there on 1 July 1952.²

5. After completing their basic training in Cheb, in May 1952, groups of about 150 men were transferred to Karlovy Vary (Karlsbad, N 51/P 69) and Znojmo (Znaim,) 49/S 06), and about 100 men to an alert regiment (pohotovostni pluk PS) in Prague. [redacted] an alert regiment was in Karlovy Vary.³

25X1

6. The guard platoon in Kunzward patrolled all roads on the perimeter of this area. In the daytime, the company stationed in Horni Silnice guarded the border from watch towers. Double sentries were on guard during the night. The sentries were relieved every six hours, both day and night. Some of them had dogs. Except for barbed-wire entanglements with built-in light rockets, there were no obstacles or fortifications in the sector of this company. The quarters were protected by ditches and shelters. In the instruction it was pointed out that in case of war reinforcements could be expected only after 36 hours.

7. [redacted] artillery and AA units were quartered in the "Na Slovanech" barracks installations, where about 12 guns of about 150-mm caliber were seen. The guns had no muzzle brakes and were fitted with dual tires. They were drawn by half track vehicles, on which about 10 men rode. [redacted] Eight heavy anti-aircraft guns, drawn by half-track vehicles, and 15 to 20 light AA guns of about 20-mm caliber, drawn by trucks, were also seen. Four radar sets were near this barracks installation. Two or three sheet-iron cabins were near each set. They were interconnected by rubber-insulated cables. One of the sets, about 8 meters high, was a funnel-shaped wire-meshed device about 5 meters in diameter. The second set was similar except for its metal frame which was heavier and its wire-mesh was closer. The two sets rotated on circular tracks. The third set consisted of a large frame, about 8 by 10 meters, was fitted with vertical and horizontal wires, and rested on a metal pedestal about 2 meters high. There was also a metal box, about 1,500 by 2,000 by 750-mm, which was on the ground and from which a metal pedestal with two metal frames projected.⁵

25X1

8. During basic training the recruits were quartered in the monastery south of Cheb which also quartered the headquarters of a PS Brigade. An infantry unit wearing red epaulets was quartered in low wooden buildings opposite the monastery. Another infantry unit, equipped with 82-mm trench mortars was billeted in a barracks installation south of the monastery. Four armored vehicles were observed once near the airfield southeast of the town. [redacted] they were of German origin. Their guns had no muzzle brakes.⁶

25X1

1. [redacted] Comment. This information confirms previous information on [redacted] the PS Brigade in Volary. The 3d Bn in Stozec also belongs to this brigade. The high percentage of Slovaks with the 8th Co is noteworthy. [redacted]

25X1

25X1

2. [redacted] Comment. Inductions for the PS are unusual in March. They usually take place in summer, so that the three-month period of basic training is finished by the time the previous classes have been discharged. The non-commissioned officers' school appears to belong to the 9th PS Brigade in Pobezovice. It is believed that the basic training of the recruits of the Volary brigade takes place in Lenora.

3. [redacted] Comment. This information confirms previous information that the 3d PS Brigade is stationed in Karlovy Vary and the 4th PS Brigade in Znojmo. [redacted] The 5th PS Brigade is reported to be stationed in Cheb. This is the first report to indicate PS alert regiments.

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

CONFIDENTIAL/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

- 3 -

25X1

4. [] Comment. [] the 12th Arty Regt was quartered in this barracks installation. It was activated in November 1950 and consisted of 9 batteries, each having four 76-mm guns. The present report stated that a heavy-artillery battalion was observed. It is not known whether it was an additional battalion of the 12 Arty Regt or whether this battalion had only been detailed from elsewhere and was quartered in the barracks installation only for the review. The guns may have been 152-mm howitzers.

25X1

5. [] Comment. The 155th AA Regt is carried quartered in this barracks installation and may be identical with the unit observed there. The radar sets may have been former German sets. If their diameters were correctly estimated, the first two radar sets would have been Fu MG 68 "Ansbach"-type and Fu MG 76 "Marbach"-type sets. The third set undoubtedly was a "Freya"-type search radar.

25X1

6. [] Comment. The 4th FS Brigade and the 9th Inf Regt of the 12th Inf Div are carried in Cheb. [] probably [] assault guns and units of the 9th Inf Regt.

25X1

25X1

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY